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ABSTRACT

This book describes acclimatization, an approach to nature education that actively involves participants in the environment during a 1-week summer camping experience. The goal is to stimulate awareness of nature, increase appreciation of nature, and motivate further involvement with nature. An outcome of this process is that participants acknowledge the impact that man has had on the environment and realize their role in caring for nature. A brief introduction discusses trends in nature education and the development of acclimatization. Most of the book covers lesson plans for 6 days. Each day is devoted to a different ecological community, including a freshwater marsh, a forest, a lakeshore, a bog, a trail, and one cubic foot of soil. In addition, specific concepts are emphasized each day, such as soil and land formation, plant succession, habitat, elements of life, adaptation, territory, and food chains. Following each lesson plan is a narrative of the author's experience using this approach with participants at Towering Pines, a boys' camp in Wisconsin. Other sections discuss: (1) additional programs that can be integrated with the camping experience (a camp zoo, the use of trail systems, a sample geology mini-unit, environmental study stations, quadrant task-force groups, and expeditions to discover different habitats); (2) specific techniques for using the senses when exploring nature, maximizing attention-getting factors, and maintaining group control; and (3) participant comments on the acclimatization experience. The last chapter provides information on program development and describes additional learning activities. An annotated bibliography contains 10 resources for acclimatization programs. (LP)

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